

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BARBARA LACEN KELLER

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of New Orleans culture bearer and activist, Barbara Lacen Keller who passed away following a brief illness at the age of 76. New Orleans has lost one of its greatest champions of culture. Barbara was always leading the fight for the rights of our musicians and culture bearers. She left a legacy worthy to be celebrated and remembered for generations to come. She was also involved in politics, to improve the lives of people in New Orleans and across the country. For many years she worked for the City of New Orleans, as the Director of Constituent Services for Council District B Councilwoman Stacey Head, and later in Mayor LaToya Cantrell's Office of Cultural Economy, where she retired in 2020. She was fondly nicknamed "the Mayor of Central City", for all her work in that neighborhood. In 2012 she proudly served as a Barack Obama delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC. She was a Mellon Community Fellow at Tulane University, mentoring graduate students in community relations.

Barbara was a very active figure in New Orleans' cultural community, including serving on the boards for the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans and the Dryades YMCA, where she was currently serving as President of the Board of Dryades YMCA, New Orleans, Louisiana, leading the transition and operational restructuring of 115-year-old community anchor organization. She was an original member of the Lady Buckjumpers, and a founding member of the New Orleans Social Aid & Pleasure Club Task Force. Barbara was a charter member of the Femme Fatale Mardi Gras krewe, serving as one of the first float captains, and was currently serving as chaplain.

She had been a valued member of the Board of Directors of WWOZ since 2021 where she will be remembered as a Guardian Angel overlooking the Guardians of the Groove, advocating for culture bearers and musicians in our city; and of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, where she was elected to the Advisory Council in 2016, and onto the Board of the Foundation in 2019, serving as Chair of the Advocacy and Equity Committee and its Gala Committee.

Barbara's mother was Augustine "Miss Teen" Germaine Lewis, who in the 1940s was the only Spy Girl Mardi Gras Indian in New Orleans. In the 1950s, Barbara herself masked as the Little Queen of the Cheyenne tribe.

Barbara was raised on Villere Street in Tremé, and attended Joseph A. Craig Elementary School, Andrew J. Bell Junior High School, and Joseph S. Clark Sr. High School,

followed by Southern University at New Orleans. She was also a proud honorary member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Barbara's Honors, Awards and Appointments are beyond numerous to mention them all.

Other civic involvement included:

Israelite Baptist Church, Pastor Support & Youth Ministries, Governmental Liaison, Mass Choir

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Member

Black Organization for Leadership Development, Member

Great Expectations Inc., Past Board Member and Treasurer

City of New Orleans Enterprise Congress, Member

National Council of Negro Women, Member
New Orleans Social Aid and Pleasure Club Task Force, Founder

Central City Partnership, Co-Founder and Chairperson

Café Reconcile, New Orleans Board of Directors, Past Chair

New Orleans Council on Aging, Board of Directors

Gathering of the Sisters, Founder

City of New Orleans, Master Plan Advisory Committee, Districts 25 & 26, Subcommittee Chairperson

Armstrong Family Services, Board of Directors, Past Chair

Urban League, Member

Independent Women's Organization, Membership & Endorsement Committees

Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee, Member

Democratic State Central Committee, District 103, Member

National Slave Ship Museum, Vice Chair

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Member

Original New Orleans Lady Buck Jumpers, Member

American Heart Association, Go Red Women Luncheon, 2011 Co-Chair

Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, Co-Chair

Tremé/7th Ward Cultural District, Sponsorship Coordinator, Festival Co-Producer

Preservation Resource Committee, Board of Directors, Chair of Multicultural Heritage Committee, Chair

The "Lacen" part of her name came from her marriage to Anthony "Tuba Fats" Lacen, one of New Orleans' most famous musicians, who was also Wild Man of the Wild Magnolias Mardi Gras Indian Tribe. Their August 1980 wedding in Armstrong Park was the first wedding to take place in the park. Tuba Fats passed in 2004.

Barbara's 1 son, Gene Bentley predeceased her in November of 2022. She is survived by the gems of her eyes, 3 daughters—Dawn Bentley-Johnson, Kelly Bentley Dixon and Cantina Rankins; 4 beautiful grandchildren—Zihara Rankins, Michael Brooks, Jr., Jelani Robinson, and Alicia Green; and 1 adorable great-grandchild.

I am humbled to have personally known such a great culture bearer and fighter for all, who has done so much to improve the lives of countless residents across my district. So many people's lives are enriched because of the love and passion she expressed in touching them along the way. While the grieving

process never truly ends, I pray that the day will come when her memory brings a smile to her family and friends' faces before it brings a tear to their eyes.

REMEMBERING LEROY ELFMAN

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of LeRoy Edwin Elfmann, who passed away on January 6th of this year.

From humble beginnings on a dairy farm in Maple Lake, Minnesota, LeRoy set out to live a life of service. After graduating from Maple Lake High School in 1968, he enlisted in the United States Army. LeRoy served in the Army for more than 20 years, and his service took him all over the world. After serving his country on deployment in Guam, Cambodia, Hungary, and Finland, he was honorably discharged after rising to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3.

However, LeRoy's service to his country did not end after his military career did. After more than 20 years in the armed forces, LeRoy joined the Defense Intelligence Agency. While there, he served as a trusted representative of the United States, advocating for our great nation around the world on intelligence and security concerns.

LeRoy was involved in many high-profile intelligence operations, including the capture of Ana Montes, a spy who infiltrated the Defense Intelligence Agency and spied on behalf of the Cuban government for 17 years. With LeRoy's help, Ms. Montes was arrested in September of 2001 and charged with conspiracy to commit espionage. She eventually pled guilty and was sentenced to a 25-year prison term. In recognition of his more than 36 years of service to the agency, LeRoy was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Director of National Intelligence.

His distinguished career with the Defense Intelligence Agency took him to more than 67 countries. During one of these trips, he met his beloved wife, Mary. They were married in Singapore, where they met, in February 1977.

Between overseas trips, the couple made their home in Arlington, Virginia until their retirement in 2011. During retirement, Mary and LeRoy were heavily involved in their community and stayed active through their membership in a square-dancing club in Monticello, the County Line Squares. Together, they participated in many square-dancing events in Minnesota and attended numerous square-dancing conventions around the United States. LeRoy also held multiple leadership positions in the state-wide organization, Square Dance Minnesota.

When they weren't square dancing or traveling together, Mary and LeRoy enjoyed spending time on the farm, planting and harvesting crops with their nephews. LeRoy also

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

spent free time organizing and tracing his family's genealogy.

LeRoy dedicated his life to the service of his country and leaves behind a tremendous legacy. He will be dearly missed. We offer our sincerest condolences to Mary and the rest of the Elfmann family, and pray LeRoy's memory will comfort them during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding votes I missed on January 24 and 25, 2023. I was not in Washington, D.C. on these dates due to the death of my father and subsequent mourning period. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 32 on H.R. 159, the Chance to Compete Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make our federal government more efficient.

Roll Call No. 33 on H.R. 300, the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make our federal government more transparent.

Roll Call No. 34 on H.R. 346, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make American aviation stronger, safer, and more reliable.

Roll Call No. 35 on H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make American businesses stronger.

Lastly, Roll Call No. 36 on H. Con. Res. 7, Commending the Bravery, Courage, and Resolve of the Women and Men of Iran Demonstrating in More Than 133 Cities and Risking Their Safety to Speak Out Against the Iranian Regime's Human Rights Abuses, I would have voted yes. I am a cosponsor of the resolution, which enjoys strong bipartisan support.

HONORING 'ALFIE' ALVARADO-RAMOS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and to wish a happy retirement to one of my constituents and a longtime friend, 'Alfie' Alvarado-Ramos. Alfie is celebrating her retirement after a lifetime of service.

Alfie was born in Puerto Rico and served 22 years on active duty retiring as the Command Sergeant Major of Madigan Army Medical Center and Troop Command, Joint Base Lewis McChord.

Alfie Alvarado-Ramos joined the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) in 1993 as the Associate Superintendent of the Washington Soldiers Home. She then became the Superintendent of the Washington Veterans Home, where she later served as the agency's Assistant Director and Deputy Director before Gov. Jay Inslee appointed her as Director in 2013.

She established new programs and services to meet the needs of Washington's veterans and their families—from opening the new State Veterans Home in Walla Walla in 2017 to creating new programs to serve military spouses and LGBTQ+ veterans. In recent years, Alvarado-Ramos worked with state elected officials and leaders to create a framework for suicide prevention efforts statewide, and most recently unveiled a 988-suicide prevention emblem to generate awareness for the 988 Crisis Lifeline.

Alfie is the recipient of the Army Legion of Merit Medal and Military Order of Medical Merit and state and national awards that include the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Leadership Award. She is currently serving as executive member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and National Association of State Veterans Home.

In addition to her work in our community, Alfie's passion for ensuring women veterans have a voice in the veteran's community has resulted in annual women veterans' conferences, monthly learning sessions, and Washington State's participation in the I Am Not Invisible Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to celebrate Alfie Alvarado-Ramos on her retirement. Her extraordinary leadership and love for her community has never wavered. She has made a tremendous difference in the state of Washington. Her service to our country and community is greatly appreciated and will be long remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF MARK WIEGERT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of retiring Calumet County Sheriff Mark Wiegert. Throughout Sheriff Wiegert's 31 years in law enforcement, he has proven to be a remarkable leader and mentor to those in his department. Beginning as a part-time officer in Brillion and Valders, Sheriff Wiegert has obtained immense knowledge while serving in different capacities and departments in law enforcement, including as a sergeant in the investigative division and a lieutenant managing the jail and investigations. The many positions he held along the way surely played a role in obtaining his most recent leadership position, Sheriff of Calumet County. I commend Sheriff Wiegert's unwavering service for the past 31 years to the people of Calumet County and Northeast Wisconsin.

During his time leading the Calumet County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Wiegert was committed to ensuring that the department expand while also identifying ways to better serve the community. While in office, Sheriff Wiegert oversaw the \$35 million project to build the new sheriffs office and jail. In addition to the building expansion, the department added new positions, a swearing-in ceremony for officers, and a wellness committee that assists officers in navigating mental health challenges. In recognition of Sheriff Wiegert's efforts, he has re-

ceived several awards, including the Wisconsin Officer of the Year Award and the Outstanding Victim Advocate Award from the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators. It is evident through these many accolades that Sheriff Wiegert has committed himself to serving the people of Calumet County with a sense of duty and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, today the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Sheriff Wiegert for his extraordinary service and commitment to his community. Sheriff Wiegert will surely be missed, but I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

GUAM-NORTHERN MARIANAS EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Guam-Northern Marianas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for 25 years of valued service supporting our islands' service men and women seeking civilian employment. Since 1997, the Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR has been instrumental in connecting our islands' National Guard and Reserve members with employers that understand and cooperate with one's commitment to military service. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of our Nation's Guard and Reserve units, should they be called upon for duty or disaster emergencies.

The Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve are on the frontlines of securing our Nation from threats around the world. In fact, the National Guard and Reserve forces comprise nearly half of our U.S. military strength. Recently, Reserve Component forces have been activated across America to assist efforts to respond to, mitigate, and control the COVID-19 pandemic. And, with more than 2,700 service members on Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, Guam and the Marianas enjoy the highest Reserve membership per capita anywhere in the United States.

That is why the work of Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR is so important to supporting the well-being of our islands and our Nation. Our service men and women make tremendous sacrifices answering the call to serve, as do their employers whose deployed Guard and Reserve members can no longer offer their skills and services for months at a time. Yet because of ESGR, these service members are comforted by the knowledge of job security upon returning home and their employers are rewarded with a uniquely dedicated workforce.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking and celebrating Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR for their exceptional service and commitment to our islands' service men and women.

HONORING FOUR CHAPLAINS
SUNDAY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Four Chaplains Sunday.

February 3, 2023 will mark the 80th anniversary of the sinking of troopship *USAT Dorchester*, which carried to their deaths 672 men, including 4 United States Army chaplains of 3 faiths who stood united in prayer as the ship went down.

These 4 chaplains, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant, gave their life jackets to 4 soldiers and thus sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of others.

The heroic deeds of Chaplains Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. Johnny P. Washington, and Lt. Clark V. Poling, and their combined act of supreme devotion and sacrifice for American liberty and human freedom, are an inspiring and shining example of real brotherhood for all time to the people of the world.

In 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the chaplains' next of kin, and in 1961, President Eisenhower awarded a special Medal for heroism, a one-time award authorized by Congress and intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

We must all see to it that their supreme sacrifice to the common cause of human freedom and justice for all shall not have been in vain. May their memory be everlasting.

RECOGNIZING SARTELL POLICE
CHIEF JIM HUGHES

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant, Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes. Chief Hughes is retiring this March after more than 32 years of service to the Sartell community.

Chief Hughes began his career as a patrol officer in Kasson, Minnesota, and later served as the interim Chief of Police for the City of Claremont, Minnesota. He began his career in Sartell in 1991, holding key positions in nearly every area of the department. Chief Hughes served as a field training officer, a sergeant, and a lieutenant before being appointed chief in 2004. He also currently serves as the Chair of the Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force and Chair of the State of Minnesota Violent Crime Coordinating Council.

After more than 30 years in Sartell, Jim has seen the city grow from a few thousand to nearly 20,000 residents. This increase has resulted in both a shift in the needs of the community and the responsibilities of the department, which Chief Hughes has handled masterfully.

In his resignation letter, Chief Hughes described the importance of connecting with and being engaged in the community. "My favorite part of being with the Sartell Police Depart-

ment is that we've remained committed to our community via outreach programs and the interaction we have with residents on a daily basis," he said. Clearly, Chief Hughes understood what it meant to not only protect his community but truly serve them.

I thank Chief Hughes for the incredible impact he has had on the Sartell Police Department and the community of Sartell at large. Congratulations, and we hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 on January 24–25, 2023, due to the shooting in Half Moon Bay, California in my Congressional District. I would have voted as follows:

Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 32, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call No. 33, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call No. 34, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call No. 35, I would have voted YES; and on Roll Call No. 36, I would have voted YES.

CELEBRATING ROBERT "BOB"
WIECKOWSKI

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize former California State Senator Robert "Bob" Wieckowski, who left office Monday, December 5, 2022, after 12 years serving in the California State Legislature.

Bob was born in San Francisco and grew up in Fremont, California. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley in 1977 and moved to Washington, D.C. to serve as staff for Congressman Don Edwards until 1982. He returned to school and received a Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University Law School in 1985. From 1986 until 1988, Bob studied Polish in Krakow, Poland.

While practicing bankruptcy law, Bob began his political career serving on Fremont's City Council from 2004 to 2010 and served as vice mayor from 2008 to 2010. From there, Bob was elected to the California State Assembly to serve District 25 in 2010. He served as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Insurance Committee, Health Committee, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, and Social Security Committee. He also launched his "Made in California Jobs Initiative" in 2011.

In 2014, Bob was elected to the California State Senate to represent District 10. In that chamber he served on the Judiciary Committee, Transportation Committee, Appropriations Committee, Budget, and Fiscal Review Committee, Housing Committee, and Chaired the Environmental Quality Committee. Notably, Bob passed legislation that expanded housing by removing barriers and allowing residents to construct accessory dwelling units through, in-

creased wage garnishment restrictions, and pushed for more robust climate adaptation.

For 12 years, Bob Wieckowski diligently served in the California State Legislature, serving our mutual constituents. His work has left a lasting impact on the Tri-City community and California more broadly. I wish him well-deserved rest and relaxation with his wife, Sue, and son, Luke, as he enters this new chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
KITTY HAWK POLICE CHIEF
JOEL JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative GREG MURPHY, to honor the 30 years of service of Kitty Hawk Police Chief Joel Johnson to the Town of Kitty Hawk and the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Chief Johnson started his career with the Kill Devil Hills Police Department in North Carolina in 1989 and served there until 1993 when he decided to attend a school of higher education. He then served in Wrightsville Beach from 1997 to 1998. Soon after, he began his service with the Kitty Hawk Police Department in September 1999 as a Patrol Officer. He briefly moved to the private sector in 2004 before returning to the Kitty Hawk Police Department in 2006. He then worked his way up to Patrol Sergeant, and ultimately up to Police Chief.

Chief Johnson accomplished a great deal as Police Chief. Some of his many accomplishments include successfully applying for over \$400,000 in federal and state grant funds, creating and implementing a new Field Training Officer Manual for rookie officers, creating and hiring the first Narcotics Officer for the Kitty Hawk Police Department, and installing an RX Drug box in the department's lobby for people to discard their prescription medications.

Chief Johnson frequently went above and beyond his expected duties. He conducted ride-alongs, served as part of the Nags Head Police Chief Assessment Board and the Kitty Hawk Fire Chief selection committee—and even changed a distressed tourist's flat tire.

Throughout his career, Chief Johnson helped a countless number of people, who described him as compassionate, professional, and dedicated—the ideal Police Chief. Under his command, the department excellently served and built a strong, trusting relationship with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and countless others in honoring the service of Kitty Hawk Police Chief Joel Johnson. May God bless Chief Johnson and his family.

HONORING JACK GIBSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Jack Gibson's 28 years of service as Marin Municipal Water District's (Marin Water) Division I Director.

A longtime resident of Sleepy Hollow, Mr. Gibson is a proud graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law and has worked as an attorney since 1971. In this capacity, he has spent countless hours sharing his professional expertise with his community, providing pro bona legal services to several local nonprofit organizations and serving on their boards of directors. He owns his own practice in Marin County, where he specializes in business, estate planning, and real estate law. In 1994, Mr. Gibson was elected to serve as a Marin Municipal Water District director.

Throughout his tenure on Marin Water, Director Gibson distinguished himself as a stalwart advocate for the communities of Marin Water Division I, including Gallinas Valley, Sleepy Hollow, Marinwood, and the coast north of McNears Beach to John F. Mcinnis Park. He worked productively on many district committees, including Watershed, Finance, Communications & Water Efficiency, and others. He was known for his open-minded approach toward problem solving and never shying away from developing and considering innovative solutions.

In addition to his service as a director, Mr. Gibson developed a renowned legacy for building alliances with other resource agencies and government partners. During his extensive tenure on the Marin Water Board of Directors, he was a key advocate for cooperative efforts and coordination between water managers and staff in the North Bay. Toward this end, he faithfully represented Marin Municipal Water District on multiple regional committees, including the North Bay Watershed Association, the North Bay Water Reuse Authority, the Mayors and City Councils of Marin Group, the Sonoma County Water Association Contractor's Water Advisory Committee, the Community Choice Aggregation, and OneTam.

Mr. Gibson is both a teacher and student of history. Prior to his law and water district careers, he taught history in San Francisco. Later, drawing on his extensive knowledge and research skills, he went on to author Mount Tamalpais and the Marin Municipal Water District, a comprehensive history of Mount Tamalpais and its adjacent watersheds, and of the water district formed to preserve natural sites and resources for community use.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gibson exemplifies what it means to be a community-minded public servant and environmental steward. His dedicated service to the Marin Water and to the people of Division I has played a significant role in resource conservation and land management in Marin County. Therefore, please join us in congratulating him for decades of inspiring work.

RECOGNIZING ESTHER GEORGE'S
RETIREMENT FROM THE FEDERAL
RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS
CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of gratitude that I rise today to celebrate the decades-long career of Esther George, who has served as the President and

CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City since October 2011. Having made the Federal Reserve Bank her professional home since 1982, Esther has dedicated 40 years to helping ensure the financial well-being of the United States. With her retirement nearing, let us take a moment to reflect on Esther's illustrious career and her efforts to steer our country's economy through periods of historic uncertainty.

Born on January 15, 1958, in Faucett, Missouri—a rural farming community in the northwestern part of the state—Esther remembers getting paid 25 cents an hour while working on her family's plot of land. After learning about an opportunity for high school students to study abroad in France, Esther secured a loan from a bank in St. Joseph, Missouri to cover the costs of the foreign exchange program. Representing her first meaningful visit to a local bank, this experience sparked Esther's lifelong interest in banking, and she soon began working at the institution while still in high school. While earning her degree in Business Administration from Missouri Western State University, Esther continued to work at the bank that had helped facilitate her trip to France, thereby expanding her knowledge of community banking while gaining an even deeper appreciation for the ways in which well-run banks can empower everyday people. Making use of another bank loan, Esther returned to Europe during her college years to study the finer points of international banking.

Made aware of job openings at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City through a newspaper ad, Esther joined the Bank on April 5, 1982, as a bank examiner trainee. At the time of her hiring, the banking industry was going through a period of relative stability. This smooth sailing, however, gave way to rough and stormy seas when the failure of a bank in Oklahoma City initiated a financial crisis whose waves of volatility crashed most violently against the Federal Reserve's 10th District, where Esther had begun working just 3 months earlier. This baptism by fire made clear the importance of the Federal Reserve's role in safeguarding America's financial system, and Esther quickly began rising up the ranks. Promoted 3 times by 1984, the young banker worked tirelessly to lessen the impacts of this financial storm.

Esther went on to earn an MBA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in addition to graduating from the American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking and the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Esther held leading positions within the Bank's research, public affairs, and human resources departments before taking the reins of the Bank's Division of Supervision and Risk Management in August 2001, making her the chief regulator of the Federal Reserve's 10th District. In this role, Esther oversaw the regulation of the District's 200 state-chartered member banks along with 1000 bank and financial holding companies. Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Esther's responsibilities took on even greater significance as our country's financial system was made to appear vulnerable. Once again, Esther rose to the occasion and did her part in minimizing the harm inflicted to America's economy.

In 2009, Esther became the Bank's Chief Operating Officer and assumed additional duties as the Director of the Federal Reserve's

Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation at the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. With the United States in the grips of the Great Recession, Esther answered the call to offer her wisdom and expertise to a weary nation. And in 2011, Esther was appointed President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. In this position, Esther has overseen the 10th District of the Federal Reserve, which includes western Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, and northern New Mexico. Leading a team of over 2000 employees at the Bank's Kansas City office and Branch offices in Denver, Oklahoma City, and Omaha, Esther has helped shape our country's monetary policy, supervised financial institutions, and provided payment and financial services to depository institutions and the U.S. Treasury. Notably, the 10th District's workforce has more than doubled since Esther took command in 2011—a testament to her vision and leadership capabilities. Moreover, as a voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee, Esther has consistently stood out as an independent voice of reason during monetary policy deliberations.

Esther has participated in the Bank for International Settlements' Financial Stability Institute programs in countries all around the world, and as the host of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's annual Jackson Hole Economic Symposium, Esther has used her influence to ensure that women are afforded equal opportunities to offer their insights on pressing economic matters.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding Esther George in recognition of 40 years of public service at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. On behalf of the 118th Congress, I wish Esther a joyous retirement.

RECOGNIZING CAROL BUSH

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of a remarkable woman, Mrs. Carol Bush. Carol was born in 1926 in Milwaukee, and her family moved to the Green Bay area in 1942. Carol began her notable legacy of volunteerism while she attended East Green Bay High School, where she would read to other local school students. Following her graduation from Beloit College and after years as an instructor at Wayland Academy, Carol married the love of her life, Robert Bush. While Carol and Robert dedicated numerous hours to making Northeast Wisconsin a great place to raise a family, they raised a family of their own welcoming Tracy, Terry, Thomas, and Toni into the world.

Given Carol's eagerness to help others throughout her community, she utilized her strengths in leadership and communication skills and became the first female president of Curative Workshop and the first woman to serve on the YMCA Board of Directors. Throughout her decades of service, Carol led and was involved with several initiatives that supported individuals and families in Northeast Wisconsin. Among the many notable organizations, Carol was an active member of the St. Norbert Board of Trustees, a member of the Heritage Hill Foundation, and founder of the

Unity Hospice Development Council. I commend Carol for her decades of service and commitment to bettering the world around her with her infectious smile and care for others.

While Carol's efforts included hours of hard work and commitment, she always found time to make a personal connection with everyone she met. Specifically, Carol and her family became season ticket holders for the UW Green Bay Women's Basketball Team. As a committed fan and patron, the team dedicated the women's court as "Carol's Court." It is quite evident through these many initiatives that Carol truly was committed to serving those in her community. Given her tireless efforts, Carol received many notable accolades along the way including the United Way DeTocqueville Award, Saint Norbert College President's Medal, U-W Green Bay Chancellor's Award, the Key to the City of Green Bay and the Seal of the City of Green Bay, just to name a few.

Carol's dedication to our community, to making Northeast Wisconsin the best place to work, play, live and raise a family will truly be missed. However, her legacy and the difference she made in our community will live on for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Carol Bush for her years of service and extraordinary dedication to the people of Northeast Wisconsin. My sincere thoughts and prayers go out to Carol's family during this time and to all of the lives she touched along the way.

REMEMBERING MAYOR DICK
CHURCH OF MIAMISBURG, OHIO

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Dick Church Jr., who passed away last month at the age of 81. Dick was a dedicated public servant who served for 28 years as Mayor of the City of Miamisburg, Ohio.

Dick Church spent most of his adult life serving the people of Ohio's "Star City." He was a member of the commission that wrote the city's charter in the 1960s, and served for 13 years on the Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Board. He was elected Mayor in 1991 after serving a single term on the city council. No one loved Miamisburg more, or worked so passionately to make "great things happen" for the city and the people who live there than Dick Church.

During his time as mayor, Dick Church provided the community with solid leadership, and enabled the city to prosper and grow in both size and population. His successful management of the cleanup of the Mound Laboratory facility in Miamisburg, and its redevelopment into a world-class business park was among his most important achievements.

Dick Church was a close friend and mentor to me during my 8 years as Mayor of the City of Dayton. We shared similar ideas about urban revitalization and redevelopment, and I benefited from his wisdom and experience. Dick worked tirelessly to make the City of Miamisburg a better place to live, work, and raise a family. He retired in 2019 as the longest-serving Mayor in Miamisburg's 205-year history.

Dick Church will be dearly missed by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him. My prayers are with his wife Judi, his family, his many friends, and the community he served.

NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF PRO
BONO

HON. MARY GAY SCANLON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, pro bono work is a professional responsibility and an ethical commitment expected and often required of all lawyers. Every October since 2009, legal organizations nationwide have participated in the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service's National Celebration of Pro Bono to recognize the increasing need for pro bono services during harsh economic times and the unprecedented voluntary response of attorneys to meet this demand. Legal services and pro bono programs across the country have held over 12,000 events in the 13 years since the National Celebration began.

A justice gap has long existed in this country between those who can afford to hire a lawyer to help them with their civil legal needs and those who cannot. To help reduce this gap, in 2016, the Committee launched ABA FreeLegalAnswers.org—the first and only online national pro bono legal advice portal—providing modest-means individuals with access to quality legal advice from pro bono attorneys licensed in their state. This access is often the only resource available to those unable to use traditional legal aid due to income, geographic or physical limitations have. Typically offering brief advice and information online in areas such as family law, housing, and consumer rights, Free Legal Answers' pro bono attorneys are able to respond quickly to questions and prevent larger legal crises from developing. ABA Free Legal Answers providers also respond to questions arising from disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires and the COVID pandemic, and help eligible individuals with an internet connection or mobile phone, including disaster survivors, veterans, and other vulnerable populations.

Since its launch, over 11,000 pro bono attorneys have registered to respond to the nearly 250,000 civil legal questions that have been posted on ABA Free Legal Answers from over 40 states. While this milestone is a sobering testament of the overwhelming need for pro bono legal services, I hereby applaud the tremendous impact made by ABA Free Legal Answers' pro bono attorneys and ask all licensed attorneys to register as volunteers with ABA FreeLegalAnswers.org during our ongoing celebration of critical pro bono services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I wasn't present for Roll Call No. 345 on agreeing to the amendment introduced by Rep. JOE NEGUSE on H.R. 7900.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 345 on H.R. 7900.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF MR.
BRADY GLEN WHITE

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Mr. Brady Glen White, a senior at Fleming Island High School and one of two high school students selected for the United States Senate Youth Program representing State of Florida.

Every year, two students from each state are selected to be part of the national student delegation that travel to Washington, D.C. to attend meetings and briefings to better understand our exemplary system of government. Additionally, those selected will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship provided by The Hearst Foundations.

To be eligible, students must rank in the top one percent of all juniors and seniors in their states while displaying remarkable leadership and commitment to volunteer work. Students are nominated by teachers and principals, and all nominations are confirmed by the chief state school officer for each jurisdiction.

A Clay County native and member of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, Brady has proven to not only excel as student, but he has emerged as a servant leader in his community. While ranking in the top one percent of all high school juniors and seniors in Florida, Brady serves as the elected chairman of the Clay County Superintendent's Advisory Council.

In addition, he is the only student on the board of the Clay Education Foundation nonprofit. Upon graduating Fleming Island High School, Brady plans to pursue both a study in political science and a law degree. Furthermore, he hopes to join the Armed Services as a JAG officer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in celebrating and congratulating the work of Brady Glen White, a true leader with an incredibly bright future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS LEGAL RESI-
DENTS RELIEF ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Northern Mariana Islands Population Stabilization Act. The bill is intended to bolster our nation's strategic interests in the Western Pacific by maintaining the population and prosperity of the Marianas, the district I represent.

The Marianas is part of the chain of U.S. and U.S.-affiliated islands that faces Chinese expansion in the region. Through the Marianas, the U.S. controls an ocean area of 289,000 square miles, greater than the size of Texas.

Yet, the U.S. presence here is at risk. According to the 2020 decennial census the population of the Marianas declined by 12.2 percent since the 2010 census. This is the second largest decline among all states and non-state areas of our Nation over that 10-year period.

This population erosion—and the loss of economic viability that results—occurs against the backdrop of increased competition with China in the Western Pacific, a time when the United States needs to be strengthening our position in the region, not shrinking in significance.

There are many reasons why people are leaving the Marianas. There are better public services and greater economic opportunity in the mainland United States. The anxiety stemming from the repeated and hyperdestructive typhoons associated with accelerating climate change also factors in the decision to leave. I refer Members to the article “People are fleeing Puerto Rico, Guam and every other U.S. territory. What gives?” in the Washington Post edition of September 23, 2022, for a discussion of population loss in all the U.S. insular areas. The article, “Perfect Storm. When is it time to abandon a place to climate change?” in *Harpers Magazine’s* October 2022 edition tracks the decision of one family in the Marianas to leave their home to escape the impacts of climate change.

Population decline, whether in the islands or in rural areas of the continental United States, creates a negative feedback loop. Reduced tax revenues limit the ability of local governments to improve services. And the reduced consumer base and labor pool throttle business. You can see this affect in the drop in Gross Domestic Product in the Marianas. GDP fell 11.2 percent in 2019, the most recent available data, a decline that would have been even more severe but for the COVID-related relief that Congress provided.

The Northern Mariana Islands Population Stabilization Act builds on several laws enacted during the Trump administration and on previous action by the House.

In the 116th Congress, we passed this same legislation by voice vote without dissent. It allows certain longterm foreign workers and investors already lawfully present in the islands to apply for permanent status in the Marianas-only. Previously, President Trump had approved USPL 115–218, defining these long-term workers, and signed USPL 116–24, creating the Marianas-only resident status.

The Marianas-only resident status that President Trump sanctioned provides no eligibility for public assistance. It bars entry into any other part of the United States except for purpose of transit through Guam to a non-U.S. destination. The status President Trump approved is revocable in case of communicable disease, criminal conviction, or terrorist activity.

Making this Marianas-only status available simply encourages continued residence and employment by people already lawfully present and gainfully employed; and doing so would help to stabilize the population in our islands.

After the House approved the legislation I have introduced today in the 116th Congress, the Senate took no action. In the intervening years, the population eligible for Marianas-only status—which by definition cannot increase—has shrunk from 2,600 to 1,600, underscoring

the continuing flight and the urgent need for us to act.

In this time of heightened concern about spending, I do want to remind the House that the Congressional Budget Office determined in 2019 this legislation has negligible effect on direct spending. That assessment must remain the same in 2023, as the number of affected individuals has only declined.

I ask all Members to support this simple, straightforward response to the problem of population loss in the Marianas. It is not a total solution, but acknowledgement a problem exists and must be addressed.

I ask, too, that Members see the Northern Mariana Islands Population Stabilization Act as an important component of our larger national response to the continuing Chinese expansion occurring throughout the Pacific.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT EVA M. APPIAH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my former United States Air Force fellow, Eva M. Appiah, on her promotion to Chief Master Sergeant.

Born and raised in Ghana, Eva moved to the United States at 14 years of age, living and studying in Alabama before moving to Georgia for her university studies. She successfully graduated from Columbus State University with both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. Eva began her distinguished career in the Air Force Reserve in May 2002. She attended Basic Military Training and Materiel Management Apprentice training at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland, Texas, graduating in March 2003. Throughout her career, she has served in various capacities within the logistics community. Serving as a First Sergeant at Maxwell Air Force Base, she was the principal advisor to the Commander, and the liaison to other senior officers, noncommissioned officers, and base agencies where she was responsible for advising on personnel programs, ensuring welfare, morale, and readiness. In her most recent deployment, she served as the First Sergeant for the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar in support of Operation FREEDOM SENTINEL and INHERENT RESOLVE.

As the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) Enlisted Legislative Fellow and a treasured member of my team, Eva provided unparalleled support in managing the defense priorities of my office, advising me in these matters, and extending the essential perspective that a member of the armed services offers to those in Congress. As a member of the Defense Subcommittee on Appropriations, it was a privilege having Eva in my office in 2022. She is sharp, passionate, eager to assist, and a true patriot. My staff and I valued having her on the team, and we are proud to celebrate this important milestone with her.

Mr. Speaker, this is an impressive accomplishment. Chief Master Sergeant is the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, and I hope Eva’s promotion is an inspiration for young women who are interested in a career in our

treasured Armed Forces. She has shown that with dedication, hard work, and perseverance, even the loftiest of dreams can be achieved.

It has been an honor to work with Chief Master Sergeant Eva M. Appiah, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of this outstanding individual on the occasion of her well-deserved promotion.

CELEBRATING DR. WILLIAM
“BILL” QUIRK, PhD

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize former California State Assemblymember Bill Quirk, who retired Wednesday, November 30, 2022, after 10 years serving our community in the California State Assembly.

Bill was born in Summit, New Jersey, and moved to the Bay Area when he was 15 years old. He received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Applied Physics in 1967 and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics in 1970 from Columbia University. He then moved back to California to work as a postdoctoral fellow at the California Institute of Technology.

Bill continued his work as a research scientist at NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies. In 1973, he supervised the first global three-dimensional model of the earth’s climate. Bill then moved to Hayward in 1978 and began his work at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he contributed his talents for 26 years. He specialized in foreign nuclear programs until his retirement in 2005. His expertise was vital in negotiating the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1996.

In 2004, Bill began his political career when he was elected to the Hayward City Council. During that time, he also served on the board of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency and the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency.

In 2012, Bill ran and was elected to represent California’s 20th Assembly District and was re-elected 4 times before announcing his retirement. During his tenure, he served on the Assembly Rules Committee, Appropriations Committee, Public Utilities and Commerce Committee, Agriculture Committee, Public Safety Committee, and chaired the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. Bill and his team prioritized legislation that addressed issues related to energy, climate change, transportation, and public safety. He helped pass numerous critical bills, including one that made it easier to request restraining orders to prevent repeated episodes of domestic violence, and another that increased resources for testing lead levels in drinking water.

For 10 years, Bill Quirk has diligently served our mutual constituents. His work has left a lasting impact on the community in Alameda County and California more broadly. I wish him well-deserved rest and relaxation with his wife, Laurel, children, Ian and Zephyr, and grandchildren, Rory and Emily, as he enters this new chapter.

RECOGNIZING DIANNE REESE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dianne Reese for receiving the New Holstein Chamber of Commerce's 2022 Distinguished Person of the Year Award.

Dianne was born and raised in Marytown, WI, and was 1 of 9 children born to August and Isabella Sippel. Having been raised on the family farm, Dianne grew up knowing the true meaning of hard work as she would help bale hay and pick up stones. From an early age, Dianne began volunteering and working to serve others in her community. For many years to come, Dianne would build a lengthy resume consisting of public service and volunteerism that is truly remarkable.

Throughout her decades of service, Dianne held several positions, including leadership in the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Mayor of New Holstein, and member of both the Legion Auxiliary and the New Holstein Kiwanis Club. During Dianne's tenure as Mayor of New Holstein, she worked to streamline government to increase efficiency and worked diligently to improve awareness of the prairie area in Kiwanis Park. I commend Dianne's 12 years of service as the Mayor of New Holstein and thank her for her outstanding leadership.

It is clear that wherever Dianne turns she leaves a lasting positive impact on those

around her. She is a true asset to our community and all of Northeast Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Dianne Reese for receiving the New Holstein Chamber of Commerce's 2022 Distinguished Person of the Year Award. Dianne's service and commitment to New Holstein and Northeast Wisconsin is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

RECOGNIZING DR. LILY P. HUSSEIN ON 55 YEARS OF SERVICE
AT JOHN H. STROGER, JR. HOSPITAL OF COOK COUNTY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a fellow Illinoisan, Dr. Lily P. Hussein, a physician who recently marked her 55th year of service at Chicago's John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, making her the longest serving physician in that hospital's 190-year history. In addition, Dr. Hussein is the nation's longest serving physician at one hospital and one of the nation's longest serving female physicians.

Dr. Hussein was born in Mosul, Iraq in 1937, the oldest of six children, five of whom would go on to become physicians. Dr. Hussein is a fifth-generation physician, whose father, grandfather, great grandmother and great-great grandmother all practiced medi-

cine. Her father, Dr. Malcolm Parhad was a pioneer in neurosurgery who trained at The Yale School of Medicine.

In 1964, Dr. Hussein graduated first in her class from the University of Baghdad College of Medicine—a feat that was personally recognized by Iraq's President. Upon graduation, she immigrated to the U.S. to continue her medical career. After a year of training in Danbury, Connecticut, she arrived as a Medical Resident at the Cook County Hospital in 1965. She began as a Family Medicine Resident but soon discovered the field of Oncology and dedicated her career to fighting cancer. In 1967, she married a fellow Cook County Hospital resident, Dr. Jaafar Hussein, to whom she has been married for 55 years. Together they have five children, four of which are in the field of medicine.

Dr. Hussein is most proud of the relationships she has built with her thousands of patients over the past seven decades. Notably, Dr. Hussein has stayed at Stroger Cook County Hospital because its mission of serving the poor is aligned with her belief that every human being deserves world-class medical care. To this day, Dr. Hussein cites those famous words on the Statue of Liberty as inspiration to continue her public service: "give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore."

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize a trailblazer and someone who embodies the best of America.